

1 COOLEY LLP  
2 BOBBY GHAJAR (198719)  
(bghajar@cooley.com)  
3 COLETTE GHAZARIAN (322235)  
(cghazarian@cooley.com)  
4 1333 2nd Street, Suite 400  
Santa Monica, California 90401  
Telephone: (310) 883-6400  
5 MARK WEINSTEIN (193043)  
(mweinstein@cooley.com)  
6 KATHLEEN HARTNETT (314267)  
(khartnett@cooley.com)  
7 JUDD LAUTER (290945)  
(jlauter@cooley.com)  
8 Elizabeth L. Stameshkin (260865)  
(lstameshkin@cooley.com)  
9 3175 Hanover Street  
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1130  
Telephone: (650) 843-5000  
10 LEX LUMINA PLLC  
11 MARK A. LEMLEY (155830)  
(mlemley@lex-lumina.com)  
12 745 Fifth Avenue, Suite 500  
13 New York, NY 10151  
Telephone: (646) 898-2055  
14 CLEARY GOTTLIEB STEEN & HAMILTON LLP  
15 ANGELA L. DUNNING (212047)  
(adunning@cgsh.com)  
16 1841 Page Mill Road, Suite 250  
Palo Alto, CA 94304  
Telephone: (650) 815-4131  
17 *Counsel for Defendant Meta Platforms, Inc.*  
18

19 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
20 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

21 **SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

22 RICHARD KADREY, *et al.*,  
23 Individual and Representative Plaintiffs,  
24 v.  
25 META PLATFORMS, INC., a Delaware  
corporation;  
26 Defendant.  
27

28 Case No. 3:23-cv-03417-VC-TSH

**DECLARATION OF TIM DETTMERS**

Trial Date: None  
Date Action Filed: July 7, 2023

1 I, Tim Dettmers, declare:

2 1. I am a Ph.D. graduate of the University of Washington, and previously worked at  
 3 Meta Platforms, Inc. (“Meta”) from March 2020 to March 2022. I have personal knowledge of the  
 4 facts contained in this Declaration and, if called as a witness, could competently testify to them  
 5 under oath.

6 2. I started working at Meta in March 2020 in Meta’s Facebook AI Research (FAIR)  
 7 team, a group within Meta that focuses on artificial intelligence (AI) research. I was part of a joint  
 8 program between the University of Washington and Meta in which students at the University could  
 9 work for Meta on a part-time basis for up to two years. I am a German native, and prior to pursuing  
 10 my Ph.D. at the University of Washington, I received my master’s degree from the University of  
 11 Lugano in Switzerland.

12 3. My title at Meta was “Visiting Researcher,” and I worked with Meta on a part-time  
 13 basis for two years while also pursuing my Ph.D. at the University of Washington. During my time  
 14 at Meta, I ultimately reported to Luke Zettlemoyer, who was a Research Director at FAIR, a  
 15 professor at the University of Washington, and my faculty advisor.

16 4. I worked on a number of AI projects during my time at Meta, some of them relating  
 17 to Large Language Models or “LLMs.” Generally speaking, an LLM is an artificial intelligence  
 18 technology that can be used to generate human-readable text and perform other language-related  
 19 tasks. One of the steps involved in creating an LLM is known as “training,” in which a large amount  
 20 of textual data is fed into an AI model in order to refine the model to enable it to process and  
 21 generate human-readable text. The term “data set” is commonly used to describe a set of textual  
 22 data used to train an LLM.

23 5. My work at Meta included researching how to make LLMs more efficient using a  
 24 procedure called “LLM.int8()”. As a part of that effort, I co-authored the paper “LLM.int8(): 8-bit  
 25 Matrix Multiplication for Transformers at Scale” with several FAIR colleagues, including Dr.  
 26 Zettlemoyer. None of my research or work at Meta related to the Llama LLM.

27 6. In late 2020, an organization known as EleutherAI released a data set for LLM  
 28 training known as the “The Pile.” Our team considered using The Pile to further our research.

1       7. Beginning in mid-November 2020, members of my team sought legal advice from  
 2 Meta's in-house counsel concerning the use of certain datasets.

3       8. Shortly thereafter, I sought to communicate (and potentially collaborate) with  
 4 EleutherAI. EleutherAI at that time had an on-line community on Discord, an on-line service for  
 5 allowing groups of users to communicate with each other using text-based messaging. Online  
 6 communities on Discord are commonly referred to as "servers," and each server can have one or  
 7 more dedicated "channels" in which members can communicate on discrete topics. I joined the  
 8 EleutherAI server in late 2020; at that time, an invitation was required. To the best of my  
 9 recollection, discussions of The Pile on the EleutherAI server on Discord were not heavily  
 10 trafficked during this time period. AI training was a niche field of research, and EleutherAI, which  
 11 was formed in mid-2020, was the first organization to create a public, large-scale dataset for training  
 12 (i.e., The Pile).

13       9. Beginning on November 26, 2020, I began messaging with two individuals affiliated  
 14 with EleutherAI through the Discord server: Stella Biderman, (whose Discord username was  
 15 stellaathena) and Leo Gao (whose Discord username was bmk1476), both of whom I understood  
 16 were part of the core team at EleutherAI. My messages initially inquired whether they knew of  
 17 legal concerns with using The Pile dataset. I received responses from Ms. Biderman and Mr. Gao  
 18 expressing their view that use of the dataset should be "fair use," but they also stated that they were  
 19 not experts and could not provide legal advice on this topic.

20       10. During this time period, my supervisors, including Dr. Zettlemoyer, and I received  
 21 communications from in-house lawyers at Meta concerning the use of datasets for our research. I  
 22 posted some of this information to the EleutherAI server on Discord. For example, on December  
 23 18, 2020, I posted messages to the EleutherAI server describing the legal advice and  
 24 recommendations that I had received from in-house lawyers at Meta about the use of certain data  
 25 sets in our research. I posted additional messages in January 2021 describing additional legal  
 26 advice that I had received from Meta's in-house lawyers.

27       11. The communications on this topic ended in about mid-January 2021. During that  
 28 time period, I thought my messages were viewable only by individuals at EleutherAI and those

1 invited to EleutherAI's Discord server and did not realize that my messages may have been  
2 viewable by a broader group of people. After my communications on the EleutherAI Discord server  
3 on this topic ended in January 2021, I did not hear anything further about them until December  
4 2023, when I was informed that my Discord communications were summarized and referenced  
5 publicly in a document filed in a copyright lawsuit against Meta.

6        12. I shared the legal advice that I received from Meta’s in-house lawyers in the spirit  
7 of sharing information and collaborating with EleutherAI, but I realize today that I should not have  
8 done so. I had a general understanding of the concept of attorney-client privilege, and that  
9 communications from Meta’s attorneys should not be shared outside Meta, based on trainings I  
10 received at the start of my employment at Meta. However, it did not occur to me at that time that  
11 my messages could be problematic. I did not inform anyone at Meta that I was sharing legal advice  
12 that I had received from Meta’s lawyers with individuals on the EleutherAI Discord server, and I  
13 did not have permission from Meta (or anyone else) to do so.

14 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on this  
15 27th day of June 2024 at Seattle, Washington.

Jim Bettinson

Tim Dettmers

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